



# CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



Volume IV, Edition V – May 2011

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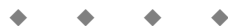
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## *New Latino Caucus Member Profile*

### **ASSEMBLY MEMBER RICARDO LARA**



A native of East Los Angeles, Ricardo Lara never imagined he would one day be responsible for speaking on behalf of hundreds of thousands of people in his community of South East L.A. Nonetheless, in

November of 2010, 78% of the voters in the 50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District elected him to do just that.

One could argue his passion for public service began taking shape when he began translating for mothers in the school yard; or when he followed his father's example of compassion by helping newly immigrant families search for work in the warehouse where his father worked.

Ricardo, however, will tell you his eyes were opened and changed forever because of a journalism class he took at Stevenson Middle School where he learned to challenge the status quo and confront injustice by sharing the truth. By the end of the class, Ricardo knew he would someday go to college and do something about the injustices he saw happening on a daily basis in his community.

At San Diego State University (SDSU) he cemented his commitment to public service when he was elected Student Body Vice President. His first legislative action involved negotiating union contracts for hundreds of employees at the university, fueling his interest in public service.

After graduating from SDSU with degrees in Communications and Chicano Studies, Senator Nell Soto gave Ricardo his start in State politics hiring him as her communications director and subsequently, her District Director.

Today, Ricardo serves as the Chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and as the representative for most of the Southeast cities in the greater Los Angeles area.

Ricardo is committed to ensuring the effective and efficient management of taxpayer money and programs, focusing on strong ethical oversight over state public funds.

Since being elected to the California State Assembly, Ricardo has worked to increase government transparency in the City of Bell through a series of events, including candidate forums and voter rights town halls. During the first few months of the 2011 legislative session, Ricardo's first piece of legislation was signed into law, AB 93. This bill helped the City of Bell start anew by creating a process for the newly elected members of the City Council to be sworn into office. AB 93 was also Governor Brown's first legislative action for the year.

A steadfast advocate of educational equity, Ricardo worked on numerous legislative initiatives prior to being elected to serve in the Assembly. He brought additional resources for English language learner students; legislation to create fair university admission policies, as well as the passage of the landmark Assembly Bill 540 (Firebaugh, 2003), making college education more affordable for immigrant students by allowing them to pay in-state tuition at California's colleges and universities.

"It's easy to get frustrated because the dreams we have to change the world don't come to fruition as quickly as we'd like them to," Ricardo said, "but I remember the words I received from my mentor, Marco Antonio Firebaugh: We might not have changed the world in one short swoop, but for that single immigrant mother whose child you helped get a college education...you changed her life forever."



## 2011 LATINO SPIRIT AWARDS

*Celebrating 10 years of Honoring Latino Leaders from Our Community*

On Monday, May 9, 2011, the California Latino Legislative Caucus hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Spirit Awards at the CA State Capitol. The Latino Spirit Awards are the State's yearly celebration honoring individuals who exemplify the true spirit of our Latino culture and heritage. The 10 honorees for 2011 are:



**JOAQUIN AVILA**

**Achievement in Civil Rights**

*Pictured with ASM V. Manuel Pérez, ASM Tony Mendoza, Speaker John A. Pérez, SEN Lou Correa, ASM Bill Monning*



**ROSARIO DAWSON**

**Achievement in Entertainment & Philanthropy**

*Pictured with SEN Ron Calderon, ASM Tony Mendoza, Speaker John A. Pérez, & ASM Steven Bradford*



**YSABEL DÚRON**

**Achievement in Journalism & Media**

*Pictured with ASM Norma Torres, ASM Tony Mendoza, Speaker John A. Pérez, ASM Mike Eng, & ASM Das Williams*



**ZOILA D. ESCOBAR**

**Achievement in Health & Business**

*Pictured with ASM Henry T. Perea, ASM Tony Mendoza, Speaker John A. Pérez, & ASM Jim Beall, Jr.*



**JUSTICE CARLOS R. MORENO**

**Achievement in Public Service**

*Pictured with ASM Luis Alejo, ASM Tony Mendoza, Speaker John A. Pérez, & ASM Sandré Swanson*



**SENATOR JENNY OROPEZA**

**In Memoriam**

*Pictured are SEN Gloria Negrete McLeod, ASM Tony Mendoza, Tom Mullins (husband), Sharon Oropeza (mother), Lynne Oropeza (sister), Speaker John A. Pérez, & ASM Ricardo Lara*



**JOSE LUIS OROZCO**

**Achievement in Music & Literature**

*Pictured with ASM Felipe Fuentes, ASM Tony Mendoza, & Speaker John A. Pérez*



**JENNI RIVERA**

**Achievement in Music, Entertainment & Philanthropy**

*Pictured with ASM Gil Cedillo, ASM Tony Mendoza, Speaker John A. Pérez, & SEN Kevin De León*



**WILMER VALDERRAMA**

**Achievement in Entertainment & Philanthropy**

*Pictured with SEN Ron Calderon, ASM Tony Mendoza, Speaker John A. Pérez, & ASM Tom Ammiano*



**HELENA MARIA VIRAMONTES**

**Achievement in Literature & the Arts**

*Pictured with ASM Mike Davis, ASM Tony Mendoza, Speaker John A. Pérez, & ASM Paul Fong*



*(Picture from Left to Right) (top) SEN Calderon, ASM M. Perez, ASM Mendoza, ASM Solorio, ASM Campos, SEN Correa, & ASM Perea. (bottom) Wilmer Valderrama, Jose Luis Orozco, Zoila D. Escobar, Ysabel Duron, Helena Maria Viramontes, Sharon Oropeza, Lynne Oropeza, Tom Mullins, Rosario Dawson, Justice Carlos R. Moreno, & Joaquin Avila*

## PRIORITY LEGISLATION FOR LATINO CAUCUS

### *Latino Caucus Releases List of Priority Legislation*

Every 2-year legislative cycle, Legislators are allowed to introduce up to 40 bills in the Legislature. From the numerous bills that were introduced by members of the California Latino Legislative Caucus this year, Latino Caucus Members were asked to submit one of their bills as their priority legislation to the newly established Latino Caucus Select Committee on Budget & Policy.

The Latino Caucus Select Committee on Budget & Policy, which is chaired by Assembly Member V. Manuel Pérez, was tasked with meeting and discussing the priority bill submissions to ensure the bills highly impact our Latino community. The other Legislators on the Committee include Assembly Members Luis Alejo, Felipe Fuentes, Jose Solorio and Senators Gloria Negrete McLeod and Juan Vargas.

After meeting and discussing the merits of the bills that were submitted, the Latino Caucus Select Committee on Budget & Policy identified the following bills as the 2011 Latino Caucus Priority Bills. The bills are as diverse as the membership of the Latino Caucus; they range from topics we are all familiar with such as the California DREAM Act to such necessary bills as SEN Calderon's medical interpreters bill, which would increase the ability of hospital staff to understand and respond to the cultural needs of patients.

The 2011 Latino Caucus Priority Bills are:

- **AB 1155 (Alejo):** Civil Rights Protection in Workers Compensation Disability Claim
- **AB 1389 (Allen):** Vehicle Impoundment: Procedural Clarity
- **AB 130 & AB 131 (Cedillo):** California Dream Act
- **AB 403 (Campos):** Hexavalent Chromium

- **AB 124 (Fuentes):** English Development Standards Advisory Committee
- **AB 185 (R. Hernández):** Maternity Services Coverage
- **AB 981 (Hueso):** California Capitol Access Program
- **AB 165 (Lara):** School Districts' Compliance with Constitutional Guarantees of Free Public Education
- **AB 46 (J. Pérez):** Local Government: City of Vernon
- **AB 916 (V. M. Pérez):** Promotores: Federal Grant Opportunities
- **AB 220 (Solorio):** Streamlining & Prioritizing Anti-Gang Grants
- **AB 770 (Torres):** 911 Dispatching Standardized Testing
- **SB 442 (Calderon):** Medical Interpreters
- **SB 453 (Correa):** Pupil Rights: Bullying: School Safety Plans: Suspension & Expulsion
- **SB 565 (De León):** Community Benefits Fund
- **SB 185 (Dr. Hernández):** UC & CSU Admission Policies
- **SB 578 (Negrete McLeod):** Coursework Credit
- **SB 559 (Padilla):** California Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act
- **SB 842 (Rubio):** Armed Forces Family Member Services Act

For more information regarding all bills in the California Legislature, please visit <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>. There, you will find legislative language, committee analyses, vote record, as well as all codes of California law.

Meeting with  
Mexican  
Ambassador to  
U.S. Arturo  
Sarukhan  
(April 26, 2011)







## REACHING OUT TO OUR LATINO COMMUNITY

*Latino Caucus Members meet with Univision Executives and Mexican Consulate*



The setting was the recently opened Mexican Consulate's Office in Sacramento. The participants were: Univision TV & Radio Executives, the Sacramento Mexican Consulate and Members of the California Latino Legislative Caucus. Known for reaching millions of Latinos in the U.S. and abroad, Univision partnered with the Mexican Consulate's office to host the Latino Caucus in a move to bring together three strong organizations that are committed to reaching and informing the fastest growing segment of our society; the Latino community.

At the dinner, Steve Stuck, VP General Manager of Univision in Sacramento, presented a recently released video by Univision entitled, "The New American Reality," which presents viewers a quick glimpse into the role Latinos play in American society. The powerful video includes such statements as "I live at the intersection of my two cultures...I take from each what I choose...I am fútbol and football....I am tamales and cheeseburgers....I move easily between two worlds....My duality is my reality...I am here." It also asks viewers to reach out to the Latino community, to understand us, and to speak our language. The Latino Caucus, Univision, and the Mexican consulate's office are all committed to ensure this relationship is forged not only within the Latino community, but throughout all communities in the U.S.

To view the "New American Reality" video, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQnhuj11zgi>



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY 2011

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

May 18 (Wed)	League of California Cities – Latino Caucus Legislative Action Day Location: California State Capitol, Sacramento, CA
May 24 (Tues) 10:00 am	California Immigrant Day Rally Location: California State Capitol, West Steps, Sacramento, CA

For more information about upcoming events, please contact Armando Chavez at (916) 319-2056.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

**Website:** <http://www2.legislature.ca.gov/latinocaucus/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=57405266134>

**YouTube:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/LatinoCaucus>

**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/latinocaucus> (@latinocaucus)

**Photo-Album:** <http://picasaweb.google.com/CA.LatinoCaucus>

If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, please contact Armando Chavez at [Armando.Chavez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Armando.Chavez@asm.ca.gov)